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DIARY NOTESExecutive Director - Comptroller

10 July 1965

1. I met this morning with Dick Helms, Ray Cline, Des FitzGerald and Peer deSilva to talk about the Vietnam Task Force. The meeting was requested by Ray Cline and I understand that it grew out of his fears that the Vietnam Task Force might take over or duplicate functions which are already being carried out by other components of the Agency. It was agreed as a matter of principle that his Task Force should be relatively small and that he should be a catalytic agent for other components and, in fact, for the entire intelligence community. It is not intended that his group become large or assume functions which are already being conducted. Peer undertook to produce by 16 July a proposed statement of his mission and functions together with his requirements for space, personnel, etc., for the Director's consideration.

2. I had nearly a full hour with Dick Helms on a variety of papers and problems.

a. We discussed specifically the routing of papers in the Office of the Director. He is very much interested in seeing that current procedures are changed so that substantive items which should reach either the Director or him quickly are not held up for routing through the Executive Director.

b. We also discussed the general delegation of authority to the Executive Director. I told him of a study which Larry Houston did some time ago and asked if he wanted this revised so that he could delegate more to the Executive Director. He expressed his complete confidence in my judgment and said that he wished not to formalize anything more at this particular time. However, at the same time, he proposed that we both need not massage the same papers and said that he was perfectly happy to accept my judgment as to which papers I wanted to sign off on myself and which I should send in for his consideration and signature. We agreed that the informal daily meetings which we have scheduled will help us to develop an informal system and that we should play it by ear for the next thirty to sixty days.

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